not be possible to get sufficient labourers for this work at low-scale of wages due to agricultural operations. The Government have, therefore, decided to execute the work as an ordinary work in due course under the Five-Year Plan."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, there has been undue delay on the part of the Government in taking up this famine relief work which was proposed to be taken up as famine relief work and sanctioned when famine was raging in Nattika firka during 1953. Government did not execute it immediately. That is why now it has become impossible to execute it as famine relief work. Will the Government see that the work is taken up immediately, even during the First Five-Year Plan period?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, the work was started in right earnest but owing to impediments on account of agricultural conditions, we could not get labourers. That is why we could not do it as a famine relief work."

Repairs to the Errammasamudram tank supply channel.

* 1940 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any estimate is pending with the Government for the repair of the supply channel to the Errammasamudram tank, Pethanaickenpalayam, Salem district; and

(*b*) when the repair works will be taken up?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) An estimate for constructing a head sluice at the head of the supply channel and raising the crest of the anicut has been sanctioned by the officers of the Public Works Department.

" (*b*) The work is in progress."

Midday meals to Harijan pupils in Marava schools.

* 1941 Q.—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government from Sri R. S. Arumugam, M.L.A., in December 1954 requesting the Government to provide midday meals to the Harijan pupils in the Marava schools which are to be started in the district by the Government; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) No representation was received by the Government. The Collector of Tirunelveli reports that a representation was received by him.

" (*b*) The Collector has submitted through the Director of Harijan Welfare proposals for supply of midday meals to Harijan pupils in Marava Basic schools. The proposal is under consideration."